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Soldiers of the Lost Cause and Successful Defenders of the Union:

This is a great occasion, and an extraordinary compliment is extended to me by the invitation to address you. I apprehend that my lack of ability will poorly vindicate the wisdom of the selection.

Thirty-two years after one of the bloodiest conflicts, in the history of battles, between the gallant soldiers who fought for the Union, and the Confederates who fought for separate National existence, on the field of Chickamauga—the 19th and 20th days of September, 1863—Saturday and Sunday—is receiving its second baptism into the everlasting history of the great events of the world.

This fraternal meeting and participation in the dedication of the great National Park which will point out the scenes of the conflict to succeeding generations, for hundreds of years, marks a new era in the history of civilization.

In no book was it ever recorded that the battle-scarred soldiers of two opposing armies ever before met as brethren on such a field of strife to mark with enduring monuments where they shed each others blood.

The good example was first set by members of Congress, who served in the opposing armies, voting for an appropriation of money from the National Treasury to purchase, mark and beautify this great Park which properly embraces not only the field of Chickamauga, on which the Confederates were successful, but also that of Missionary Ridge, where at a later day, the Union forces were equally victorious.

But a few months ago we saw unveiled in the city of Chicago a monument to the Confederate dead.

That caused not only many old Confederates to pause and think how the mellowing influence of time smooths down the wrinkled front of war, but impressed the younger generation with the fact that the memories of the great struggle now belong alone to history.

This great gathering and the fraternal feeling manifested will give to the historian, for record, something new under the sun. This great occasion is a higher honor to the Union veteran than to the Confederate, because he was a conqueror, and yet he indulges no vain, or offensive boast, over his fallen rival. It is a high compliment to the Confederate that his prowess and patriotism are thus acknowledged. It is patriotic and sensible, on the part of the Union veteran because it commends the side he fought for to the more generous consideration of the younger generation of Southerners.

The Union veteran, by this fraternity, extolls his own gal-

lantry and high soldiery qualities, by which alone, he was ever able to triumph over such stubborn and determined foes.

It is complimentary to the Confederate veteran, in this way to acknowledge defeat, though accomplished by overpowering numbers, and to strike hands with his late adversaries as honorable men; and it is not only commendable in the Confederate, but highly honorable and patriotic, for him and his late foeman to meet here on this occasion, which proclaims to the world that we are a completely re-united nation; that we really have peace.

This meeting is a most impressive presentation, to the civilized people of the entire world, of the highest observance of the great national code of honor.

ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA.

I have been designated to represent, on this occasion, troops from the army of Northern Virginia who came down to reinforce the army of Tennessee. This task should have been committed to abler hands.

I was one of those who in an humble way performed a conspicuous part in the battle. I commanded the 15th Alabama Infantry Regiment, and a part of the time, on the afternoon of the 19th, I commanded four Regiments of Law's Brigade. Two entire divisions and a battalion of Artillery were transferred out here, but the only Brigades which arrived in time to participate in the battle were Benning's Georgia, Robertson's Texas and Law's Alabama Brigades of Hood's Division; and Kershaw's South Carolina and Humphrey's Mississippi Brigades of McLaw's Division.

These troops were all old veterans who had seen much service and had been commanded through many engagements by excellent officers and never had known defeat.

It is not expected of me that I should give a detailed account of the conduct of these Brigades, or the Regiments composing the same. It is enough for me to say that their gallant conduct was fully up to the highest standard they had erected for themselves at Manassas, or Bull Run, at Seven Pines, Meadow-Bridge, Gaines' Mill, Frazier's Farm, Malvern Hill, Cedar Run, Sharpsburg, Fredricksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, and some of the regiments were with Jackson in his celebrated valley campaign in 1862.

The roar of the deadly musketry and the deafening thunders of the artillery were noises with which they were familiar; and at Chickamauga on Sunday there stood before them a living wall of brave and determined men, yet when Longstreet said "forward my men," they moved like a thunder storm, which no line, however strong, and even though

double, could long resist, or withstand, and they had not drank a drop of powdered whisky as one of the speakers upon the Union side has alleged. They needed no such stimulant, but without fear of consequences did their duty nobly.

The Union lines were broken on that part of the field, and at the last point of the heroic resistance there fell before the fire of my regiment that accomplished and lamented soldier and poet, Gen'l. Lytle, the author of "Dying Egypt, Dying."

In this struggle—just at the turn of the tide—my Regiment captured a two gun battery, turned and discharged one of the pieces which was loaded and the shell exploded within three feet of General Rosencrans' head, from which he miraculously escaped without injury, as he told me since the war. I replied "well General I would have been delighted to have killed you then, but now I am glad that you escaped unhurt."

BRAGG'S MISTAKE.

At the close of the battle, with victory on his side General Bragg made the mistake, too often made during our war, of failing vigorously to pursue the re-treating foe. One or two days thereafter he deliberately moved up his army and besieged Chattanooga. Longstreet now re-enforced by the Brigades of Jenkin's South Carolina and Anderson's Georgia of Hood's Division, Bryan's and Wafford's Georgia Brigades of McLaws's Division was still on the left, his command extending to the west side of Lookout mountain.

There seems to be considerable difference in opinion as to the numbers of the respective armies engaged in the battle of Chickamauga. I listened with great pleasure to the speech of the distinguished and able gentleman from Illinois, General Palmer, who was an officer of high rank and bore a conspicuous part in the battle. I know his integrity forbids any erroneous statement; he gave the number from the data he found accessible. In this way he concluded that the Confederate force was about 60,600 men and the Federal force engaged about 57,400 or 57,500 men thus making a difference of about 3000 in favor of the Confederates. I am satisfied that the gentleman's data included Longstreet's entire command, all the troops transferred with him from the army of Northern Virginia. I have already stated the names of four Brigades of these troops which did not arrive until the 21st, the day after the conclusion of the battle. Jenken's Brigade was a very large one, but the average of the four was about 1,500 men each, and that makes a difference of 6,000, which deducted from Bragg's supposed force would leave him 3,000 men weaker than his adversary,

But whatever may be said on this point it is a fact that the two armies were pretty equally matched in numbers. Gen'l Palmer very candidly admitted the defeat of Rosencrans, and

undertook to account for it by saying that Rosencrans made a mistake in ordering Woods' Division from his right to the support of Reynolds on the left, or left centre.

Bragg's plan of attack for Sunday morning was that Polk, who commanded the right wing, should at sun rise make a heavy assault upon the Union left wing, drive it back upon the centre and obtain possession of the passes through the ridge to Chattanooga. Then Longstreet, who commanded the left wing, was to make a furious assault upon the Union lines confronting him and that army thus dislocated and confused by Polk's success of the fore-noon was to be crushed and utterly routed. Polk did not begin the assault until about eight o'clock and not then with such force and vigor as to accomplish the object according to the plan; his part of the battle was wavering and fluctuating, first one side driving and then the other, with no decisive advantages to either. From these persistent attacks by Bragg's right wing Rosencrans was impressed with the idea that this part of the field was where the main conflict would be waged. His order therefore transferring Wood's Division to his left was to strengthen his lines there against the repeated assaults.

About eleven o'clock when Longstreet perceived this movement, thus weakening the second line of Rosencrans, he ordered his wing forward to a vigorous assault and broke to pieces the right wing of Rosencrans; thus weakened, he drove it from the field and reformed his lines at right angles with Polk's wing and assaulted Snodgrass Hill and the adjacent hills and ridges held by Thomas, who never was driven in disorder from the hill but retired about 8 o'clock p. m.

Why Polk's wing, during this last assault, lay still and failed to advance I do not understand. Had Polk thrown his wing forward and broken Thomas' single line of battle north of the Snodgrass range of hills, nothing could have saved Thomas from utter rout and the capture of a large part of his command.

I was sent over into Lookout Valley where the 4th Alabaman under Col. Bowles was picketing the river as sharpshooters near the end of Raccoon mountain and shooting the drivers and teams when they attempted to use the dirt wagon road on the other side of the river. The picket line was extended by companies from my Regiment clear up to Brown's ferry. I had in reserve six companies of Infantry, numbering about two hundred men, and a section of the Louisiana Battery. For three weeks we held this position. Rosencrans was restricted to one wagon road to supply his army which reached a condition producing grave apprehension that it would have to retreat, which it was not prepared to do, or surrender which it much less desired to do. The valley was the key to Bragg's advantageous position. Its continued

possession rendered Chattanooga untenable by the Union army.

A plan was devised to remove my command, and thus raise the blockade; and when General Grant assumed command it was carried out on the night of the 26th of October, when he succeeded in landing under Gen. Hazen twenty-two hundred men on my side at the Ferry. I made the best resistance I could with my handfull of men, but just as day was breaking on the 27th I was severely wounded and carried from the field.

I had for two days reported indications and asked for reinforcements to resist the attack, but they came not until that morning when it was too late. Thus we lost Lookout Valley. And Hooker's two corps, which came by way of Bridgeport, were thus enabled to capture Lookout Mountain, after Longstreet's troops were withdrawn therefrom.

When I got back to Lookout Creek, after having been wounded, as stated, I met General Law with seven Regiments coming to reinforce me. I told him that he was too late and that if he would ride up on a spur of the mountain next to the river he could with his field glass see all over the Valley. He did so and on his return, remarked that I was right, that there was a pontoon bridge across the river at the ferry and that an entire corps of the Union army was then in the Valley. He said he had come according to his orders. The sun was then about one hour high. Too slow! Too slow! He was ordered to come too late. Somebody had woefully blundered. A newspaper correspondent who signed his communications "P. W. A." undertook to blame me for the loss of Lookout Valley. I had succeeded in holding it for three weeks with only two Regiments and two pieces of Artillery assigned to this duty in the face of an immense army in Chattanooga and two corps just below on the opposite side at Bridgeport. I made two reports to General Jenkins, as Division Commander, and late the evening before I was driven out I made one to Longstreet through his Adjutant-General and appealed, after stating the facts, for immediate reinforcements, but they were not sent until next morning, when too late.

With that Valley in our possession we had all the Railroads, the river, and one wagon road on the other side was all that Rosecrans had by which to supply his army. The men and animals were very near the starvation point when the blockade was raised by driving me out as I have described.

General Jenkins brought his immediate command across the mountain late that evening and the battle of Wauhatchee occurred that or the next night and our people got the worst of it.

A little red headed boy named "Billy" Bethune, from Columbus, Ga., came to me just before the battle of Chickamauga and desired to be mustered in as a soldier. I declined because he was but fourteen years old and not well grown at that. After the battle he told me that if I still refused to take him as a soldier he would go off and join some other command. I told him that he might remain with the Regiment without being mustered in and at the next battle I would give him a gun and allow him to try his hand and see how he liked it. On the morning of the 27th of October, before day, when I was preparing my small command for the attack at Brown's Ferry, I felt some one pull my sleeve. It was little "Billy." He said: "Colonel, do you remember your promise?" I ordered that a gun and cartridge box be given him, which was done, and he went through the engagement unhurt. The next night at Wauhatchee he was not so fortunate. The Major who was in command of the Regiment was down near the bridge after our line was broken and the men were straggling back and taking out wounded comrades. An Irishman who belonged to the Regiment came along with some one on his back. The Major called out:

"Who is that?"

He answered: "Jimmy Rutledge, sir."

"Who is that you are carrying out?" said the Major.

"Billy Bethune, sir."

"Is he wounded?"

"He is, sir."

"How is he wounded?"

"He is shot in the back, sir."

At that moment Billy's childish voice rang out on the night air: "Major, he is a damned liar; I am shot across the back." (Loud laughter.)

Bragg was forced to retire to Missionary Ridge. Longstreet's Troops did not participate in the battle which occurred there on the 25th day of November, as he had gone with them and Buckner's division to Knoxville to resist Burnside's advance.

The Confederate strategy attempted was for Longstreet to crush Burnside, or put him *hors de combat*, and return in time to reinforce Bragg before Grant would be ready to assault him. But Burnside, with a superior force, was too strongly intrenched and Longstreet could not dislodge, nor drive him, and while attempting it Sherman reinforced Grant, they attacked and beat Bragg and drove him to Dalton, Ga., and in consequence Longstreet raised the siege of Knoxville and retreated into East Tennessee, and thus ended the campaign of 1863.

CAUSES OF THE WAR.

Fellow Soldiers :—Pardon a few reflections upon the pri-

mary causes of the unprecedeted and unequal struggle, and the consequences of the war. "Speak of me as I am, nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice; then will you speak of one who loved not wisely, but too well."

We poor rebels lost all save honor, and now will you listen patiently, for a brief period, to one of them while giving his side as impartially as he can?

The old Confederate veteran can look backward without shame; he can stand erect with a proud conscientiousness that he fought for a just cause, which though lost was partially won, and say to all the world, let the history of the great conflict be penned by an impartial hand, fully and fairly to both sides, and there will not be a sentence, a line, or a word in it to bring a blush of shame to the cheek of him who did his duty in following the red starry cross of the late Confederacy.

Let the blasphemous mouths of the bloody shirt shriekers be closed, and the truth be told, and our cause, and the heroism which sustained it for four immortal years will illuminate the brightest chapters of the true history of that great conflict.

There never was a war, wherein the object of the invader was anything short of extermination, in which there was more involved, or the result of which was fraught with greater consequences; nor was there ever a war, the real causes of which, were so imperfectly understood by other nations and many even of the American people.

One of the underlying causes of the conflict of arms was that in our citizenship there were two distinct types of civilization—the Cavalier and the Puritan. Between these there were frequent conflicts in the mother country centuries ago.

They were transplanted to this country by many of the Cavaliers settling in the Southern States and the Puritans in the Northern and Eastern States of the Union. Both were high types of civilization, but utterly unlike.

The first well defined distinction between them was in the reign of Queen Elizabeth and the first of the Stuarts, along about the middle of the 16th century.

The dissenters from the Church of England who advocated a purer doctrine and a higher life assumed to possess all the Godliness and virtue, and not satisfied with these, assumed to think for others, to prescribe rules to govern the consciences of others and who in a Pharasaical spirit thanked God that they were not as other men. These were called Puritans.

In this country they retained much of their original faith and practices until the lessons of the war vastly improved their manners.

Cromwell, whose greatness was equalled only by his meanness and cruelty, was of this type.

Those who adhered to the Church and the Parliament and supported Charles the 1st were called Cavaliers. They were noted for their conservatism, favoring well established institutions, protecting the rights of property and favoring the regular orderly methods of business.

They were never rigidly righteous, but liberal, generous, brave and disposed to mind their own business and let that of other people alone.

The two fought each other repeatedly in England.

The interference of the one with the business and institutions of the other, in this country, was one of the underlying or basic causes of the great conflict.

I do not wish to be understood as asserting that all the people of this country belong exclusively to the one or the other of these types, for they are the extremes. They are greatly in the minority.

A large majority of our people may be classed as intermediary, and not belonging distinctively to either one of these classes. This middle class will in the course of time absorb the extremes and possibly produce men and women of greater excellence than either.

Upon this great conservative mass the future peace and happiness of this country depend.

u The intermeddling of the Puritans and the hot-headed ~~re-~~ pulsiveness of the Cavalier leaders, notwithstanding they were largely in the minority, stirred up the strife, set fire to the forest and caused the great conflagration and suffering which ensued.

The lesson it taught is of such weighty magnitude and solemnity that it is to be hoped that neither side will ever forget it, or allow its follies and cruelties to be repeated.

An aggressive fanaticism meeting a brave and reckless defiance ignored the demands of reason, caused an ocean of tears to be shed, drenched the land in blood and sacrificed the lives of a million of men and untold millions of treasure.

It is sometimes asserted that the war was a necessity merely to settle the construction of the Constitution. I think that is a mistake. It indicates a want of recollection as to the true causes of the war, or those who assert it have convenient memories, or a genius for inventing theories of conciliation for our defeat.

Contentions as to strict, or latitudinous construction of the constitution, as to partial legislation, unjust taxation and unequal commercial advantages, while producing temporary irritation and excitement, would never of themselves have influenced any of the States of the South to have attempted secession from the Union.

SLAVERY.

Every well informed person knows that the agitation of

the slavery question was the immediate and provoking cause of secession.

The presence in our midst of the African race, for which they are in no wise responsible, has ever been the Pandora's box of our American politics.

Slavery, it must be conceded, is contrary to natural right, but it was a lawful State institution, and so recognized by the Constitution of the United States.

Being a State institution, it was the right of the State in which it existed to continue or abolish it. The responsibility, moral and otherwise, for its continuance belonged alone to the people of the State wherein it existed.

The institution had come down to the Southern people through several generations. They had invested their money in slaves. Its nature and character were not generally understood by the people of the North, in whose States it once existed, but had been abolished for many years.

They professed to believe that men owned the flesh, blood and souls of their slaves, treated and disposed of them with no more regard for their well-being than if they were lifeless chattels. The owner of the Slave only had a right to control and dispose of his labor and inflict upon him such corporeal punishment as was allowable at the common law. Of course it was contrary to the black man's natural right to freedom, but it was the road by which he reached civilization.

In every slave State the law made it a penal offense for the master not to provide a sufficiency of healthful food and clothing, or to unreasonably punish his slave, or to make him work on the Sabbath, and to kill him was murder.

I knew a man to be tried the year before the war began for killing his slave, and he was convicted and sent to the penitentiary. (A voice from the audience: "He should have been hung, damn him!") Well, there are a good many people who deserve hanging and never get their deserts. The jury in that case were better judges than you or myself. Cruelties were in a good many instances practiced upon the slave and never detected and punished because it was difficult to obtain the proof. The Negroes simply passed through the fiery furnace of slavery to reach civilization, which was the only road by which they could have obtained it.

Interest and humanity united in making the master careful of the health and life of his slave.

It was abuse, threats and impending assaults upon the rights of the State to regulate its own local and domestic affairs voiced by leading men of the puritanical type, who abused and traduced Justices of the Supreme Court for deciding that Slavery was lawful; and who denounced the institution and polygamy as twin relics of barbarism, as the sum total of all villainy, as a league with death and a coven-

ant with hell, until their doctrines incited a band of fanatics to believe that they were inspired by Heaven to light the torch of revolution in Southern homes and to invade a Southern State for the purpose of inciting the slaves to insurrection, arson and indiscriminate murder of the white people ; and when the chief of these malefactors was executed church bells were tolled in some of the Northern cities to cannonize him as a martyr.

These were the irritating causes which aroused feelings of indignation and prepared the minds of the Southern people for secession from the Union.

Then when a great and growing political party, confined alone to the Northern States, whose slogan was hostility to the institution of slavery, and whose orators were full of intemperate denunciation of the Southern people, succeeded in electing their President, who had proclaimed the irrepressible conflict—that this country must all be slave or free labor—the apprehensions of the Southern people were awakened to a common danger—not about slavery alone, but that their ancient and well defined right to govern their own internal affairs in their own way would be denied and destroyed, not directly, but by attrition under the guise of law and constitutional administration. (Sensation and dissent in the audience.) I know that some of you Union men do not relish what I am saying, but hear me through ; I will tell you the truth and give you nothing but facts.

SECESSION.

Conventions were called and assembled in the different states of the South, each to decide for itself what should be done.

Eleven of these conventions, holding that the Union was a voluntary one, and that it was no longer a safe-guard and protection, but a menace to their rights, resolved to withdraw from it and form another Union in which it was believed there would be peace, harmony and security of rights resulting from homogeneity of interests.

They did not stop to consider collateral questions, nor what might logically follow their action in case of success.

They reasoned syllogistically thus : If the Union was a voluntary one entered into by the States for their mutual benefit and protection, then when in the opinion of a State such security was no longer guaranteed, but jeopardized, or denied, it had the right to withdraw from such a Union ; and if a State had the right to withdraw, or secede, it followed as a logical sequence that the Union had no right to coerce such State to remain within it or to return after having withdrawn from it.

But the Union denied that it was a voluntary one and asserted a paramount and perpetual Nationality, and under the

Constitution it claimed the right to coerce the States to remain within it. However, illogical, this was the doctrine of the Unionists.

Thus was presented a great issue which unfortunately our constitution provided for no umpire to peaceably adjudicate, and hence the question was necessarily submitted to the arbitrament of arms—the Court of last resort among Nations.

It was not jealousy and hatred we bore towards our Northern brethren. It was not their successful rivalry of us in trade and commerce! It was not an ambitious lust for power nor a spirit of unrighteous dictation which led the sereid ranks of the South to battle.

It has been asserted by some of the distinguished speakers here who served in the Union army that the abolition of slavery was one of the grand objects for which the war was waged. I deny this proposition. The resolution adopted by Congress declaring war against the seceded states set forth the purpose to be "The restoration to the Union of the revolted States with all their rights, dignities and institutions unimpaired;" and slavery was the chief institution. During the first two years of the war whenever slaves escaped from their owners and entered the lines of the Union army they were returned; and you could not more deeply offend a Union soldier than to tell him he was fighting for the freedom of the negroes. He would indignantly deny it and say he was fighting for the maintenance of the Union. When President Lincoln called for seventy-five thousand troops at the beginning he supposed that 90 days' service was as long as they would be needed. It was supposed that the slaves would rise in insurrection, assert their freedom, lay waste the country, slaughter the whites and all would be ended within that period. To the surprise of the people of the North not a single lawless outrage was committed by any slave throughout the seceding states, on any white person, during the entire war. They remained at home, labored and made supplies for the support of the women and children and our armies in the field. While this state of affairs continued the Confederates were triumphant in all the principal engagements.

Mr. Lincoln was an abolitionist, but it is a great mistake to suppose that for this reason and his sympathy for the slave induced him to put forth his emancipation proclamation. Prior thereto he suspended General Schenck from command in Maryland because he undertook the emancipation of the slaves, which Mr. Lincoln said was in violation of the Constitution. His proclamation was issued, after due consultation with his cabinet, as a war measure. He regarded the slaves as contraband of war because an aid to the enemies of the Union. The terms of the proclamation were for the Southern States to lay down their arms and return to

their former positions in the Union, and if they failed to do this by the 1st of January, 1863, he declared their slaves thereafter to be free. He admitted that he had no other power to abolish slavery. If the South had been fighting for slavery, we had then but to lay down our arms and return to the Union with that institution which would have been in accord with the purpose of Congress in declaring the war. But we were fighting for separate national existence and paid no attention to the proclamation, and slavery was abolished as a result of the war.

It was not for slavery as such, for the majority of our men never owned a slave. A large majority of our soldiers were poor laboring men. They were horrified at the idea of four million emancipated slaves being turned loose in their midst, raised to the equality of citizenship, invested with the elective franchise and brought into competition with them as free laborers which aroused the pride of race superiority, and the invasion of their right of local or State government, offended alike the dignity of these men and the slave owner; they stood united and fought like devils, as every Union veteran will testify.

For two and a half years of the immortal conflict our flag floated triumphantly on nearly a hundred fields of battle.

We fought with the same spirit of our revolutionary sires, who bought with their precious blood the privileges we now enjoy.

We fought for the right of our States to regulate and govern their own affairs, free from the dictation of others, and to form such compacts and associations with each other as would serve best to preserve their mutual rights of local government. We fought for the right as God gave us to see the right.

State allegiance and State pride, which sprang from the love of home and its sacred precincts, sent our gallant men forth with the prayers and blessings of wives, mothers, sisters, daughters and sweethearts, armed with stout hearts and willing hands to meet three fold their number in the death grapple of red-handed war.

The love of home is a sentiment which pervades every land that is watered by the king of floods and all his tributaries.

It is founded in nature differing only in degree in different races of men, and is everywhere the tap-root of the loftiest and truest patriotism.

It is illustrated, said Erskine, in the person of an indignant Indian Prince whose country was being invaded and occupied by white men.

Addressing the Governor of the colony, while surrounded by his followers and holding in his hand a bundle of sticks as the notes of his unlettered eloquence he said :

"Who is it that causes this river to rise in the high mountains and empty itself into the ocean? Who is it that causes to blow the loud winds of winter and that calms them again in summer? Who is it that raises up these lofty forests and blasts them with the quick lightning at his pleasure? The same Being that gave to you a Country on the other side of the great water, and gave this to us, and by this title we will defend it."

(Throwing his tomahawk on the ground and raising the war cry of his nation.)

A true American illustration of this sentiment is found in the heroic conduct of Col. Travis and his 188 Texans at the Alamo. They resolved to resist Santa Anna's advance with 4000 men.

Travis' appeal to his men was brief; he said: "We are Texans? Here are our homes and our loved ones; let us resolve to die where we are, in their defense. If any man fear the responsibility, let him step forward and he shall be discharged and allowed to retire."

One man alone embraced the opportunity and retired in disgrace while escape was practicable. All the others, including Travis, Davie Crockett and Bowie, fell at their posts, and to-day you can read the everlasting message to their countrymen, engraved upon the little monument to their memory in the old Capitol of Texas: "Thermopalaе had her messenger of defeat; the Alamo had none."

Nowhere on earth is the love of home and pride of local government more deeply implanted, or more potential, than among the people of the Southern States.

INEQUALITY OF FORCE.

Conceding equal patriotism and bravery to those who bore aloft the standards of the Union, the imperishable glory of the Confederates conspicuously appears in the inequality of numbers, resources and appliances of war.

Just think of that inequality! Eight millions on our side against twenty-five millions of people on the other and the whole world to recruit from.

You with a government of unlimited credit, exhaustless resources, an ample supply of the best arms and munitions of war, and a commerce but little disturbed:

The Confederacy deficient in all these and her ports closed and blockaded; without even the nucleus of an army or navy; without arms or ammunition; without a commissariat; without money; without credit; without factories, and accustomed only to the peaceful pursuits of husbandry, were armed with nothing at the beginning save our own stout hearts and the manly resolve to vindicate our rights at every hazard.

A STORY OF CAPT. LAIRD AND THE POLES.

Nothing more forcibly illustrates the destitution and determination of our people than an occurrence at Island No. 10 in the Mississippi River. General Tilgman was in command of four Regiments and one or two of them were armed with old George Law muskets and the others with poles cut somewhat in imitation of wooden guns. The General told the field officers that he would have the long roll beaten after midnight to see how the company officers and men would take it. When it occurred, Colonel Baker said he went to a position from which he could observe his Regiment unseen by the men. Captain Laird's company was from Coffee County, in South Alabama. He had a long flowing red beard and green eyes and would fight anything in the shape of an enemy. He had an old long Cavalry sabre drawn and was walking up and down in rear of his company, looking like Goliah with his weaver's beam. His first Sergeant, a pale faced uneducated man, who talked with a long drawling voice, but had an abundance of good hard sense, said : "Captain Laird, 'spose the yankees do come what are we gwine to do with these here poles?" That was a poser. The Captain halted for a moment and then replied most vigorously : "Sergeant, throw your poles to hell, draw your pocket-knives and cut them to the hollow, G—d d—n them." (Laughter and applause.)

The records show the total enlistments in all the Confederate armies during the war to have been but little more than 600,000 ; while in all the armies of the Union there were over 2,800,000. It is fair, however, to state that a larger per centage of the latter were re-enlistments than of the former, and a larger invading force is often equaled by a smaller one acting on the defensive.

Notwithstanding the great disparity in numbers and our destitution of the sinews of war, for four immortal years our flag floated in the breezes of heaven as the symbol of the storm-cradled Nation.

But as time rolled on the Confederate lines became more and more attenuated. When the rolls were called there was no response to three-fourths of the names upon them ; those who did not answer were disabled or dead.

Superiority of numbers, improved by discipline and experience, enabled the Union forces to beat us back, until they formed a cordon around the struggling Confederacy.

We were beaten back step by step, but gave blow for blow as our comrades fell around us.

No more heroic, or impressive scenes ever occurred in the history of warfare.

But there must be an end to human endurance, and at last, when all our strongholds were captured, our rivers full of

hostile gun-boats, our railroads worn out and broken, our soldiers starving, or living on half rations, frequently sharing the corn with the horses; when 300,000 hillocks marked the last resting places of those who had sacrificed their lives upon the altar of their own and their Country's honor—God Almighty forever bless their souls,—when widows and orphans became numberless, and grief and mourning were visitors to nearly every household, the hearts of our people sank in depair. Their sublime courage failed them and many wrote to their loved ones who still survived to give up the hopeless struggle and come home.

To all such this was the supreme trial, the test of superiority;—to decide between duty and affection to the family, with subjugation and defeat on the one side, and on the other an honorable death for the cause to which they had shown such devotion.

Many abandoned the cause—I can scarcely call it desertion, although technically it was,—but many of the heroes of a hundred battles, veterans of Lee and Jackson and of Johnston, whose scarred bodies, tattered flags and attenuated ranks told so eloquently the tale of their doings, preferred an honorable death, and remained in line still ready to fight and to die for Dixie.

They thus presented to the world an example of heroism similar to that of Cambronne, the commander of the last square of the old Guard at Waterloo.

When the pile of corpses around the square was larger than the bulk of the living, their comrades groaning in death agonies, the French Army broken and fleeing, the Allies with eighty cannon shotted and ready to fire upon this devoted group, Generals Colville and Maitland, struck with admiration for such heroism, road forward and cried aloud,—“Brave Frenchmen surrender.”

The response came back in language as defiant and more contemptuous than that of, “The Guard dies, but never surrenders.”

The cannons belched forth their thunder and when the smoke lifted a quivering heap of corpses alone remained.

When Lee’s great brain could plan no more; when Johnston’s cunning had given o’er, and nothing but omnipotence could have averted the surrender, these ragged veterans were still ready to march into the jaws of death, where the hellish din of battle drowned the shriks of the wounded and the groans of the dying.

Ah! But who has language to portray the heroism of such brave souls? They stood by their colors unflinchingly, when carnage, ruin and death reigned supreme.

They went with Gordon in the last wild charge he made,

"While their was not a man dismayed, and all the world wondered."

THE END.

The great drama drew rapidly to a close and the star of hope which had shown with such brilliant lustre in the constellation of nations, went down beneath the Southern horizon on the field of Appamattox to rise no more forever.

The high court of force had sealed its decree and thereby blotted the Confederacy out of the firmament of nations.

To us it was an event of sorrow and sadness. To the other side it was a great triumph and day of rejoicing; but, my friends, the decision was the most expensive ever rendered in the history of the world.

No other nation would have made such herculean efforts and expended such incalculable sums of money to have achieved success as did the Union. With all our disadvantages and one-third of the population of the seceding states open enemies to us or in sympathy with the union, and nearly 600,000 soldiers in the Union armies which you obtained from Europe for the bounty, notwithstanding all these disadvantages of the confederates the fighting we did would have whipped any other nation than the United States. (Applause from both sides.)

The total taxable value of our property at the beginning of the war was five and a quarter billions of dollars.

The cost to the Union of our subjugation, including pensions, up to last year has been eight and a quarter billions, or three billions of dollars more than all the property, including slaves, in the eleven seceding States was worth at the beginning of the struggle.

Though hard to do, we accepted the decision with the same good faith and manilness with which we had fought for our convictions.

While one might as well undertake to disprove the divinity of Christ to the ecumenical council as to argue to an old Confederate veteran against the right of secession, yet the exercise of that right, at the time and in the manner it was done, will always be regarded by thoughtful men as a rash and inconsiderate act.

THE RESULTS.

If success had not been impracticable on account of the disadvantages I have already enumerated, there were other almost insuperable difficulties in the way of the success of our cause.

Had there been any great obstacle for a dividing line, a range of high mountains, or a body of water similar to the English channel, or had the Mississippi river flowed from

East to West instead of bisecting the Confederacy, complete separation would have been both wise and practicable.

Had we succeeded with a mere imaginary line of separation the tendency to conflict would have been as certain and more frequent than that between England and Scotland before they united in one government.

Permanent peace would have been impossible.

While the right of secession, to my mind, was beyond controversy, yet when put into practice might have proven a boomerang, for it is equally clear that it would have established the right of disintegration.

The congenital germ of dissolution would have produced constant apprehension, and confronted by our own precedent we could not have questioned the right of any State to secede from the compact; and hence, had we succeeded, we might, ere this, have had two or more confederacies.

Another consolation for our defeat is that we have escaped the danger of the multiplication of governments on this continent, which, if brought about would result, as it has in Europe, in large standing armies, burdensome taxation to maintain them, and involvement in bloody wars, threatening the destruction of liberty itself.

Slavery was destroyed as a result of the war, but it was an institution which has served its purpose in the civilization of the African race in our midst so far as it could be done through such an institution; and under the laws of an All-wise Providence when an institution ceases to be of utility its destruction will follow. And now that it is numbered with the things of the past, no one would have it reestablished.

The earnestness and gallantry of our soldiers on both sides will forever command the admiration of the world; and while hundreds of thousands of valuable lives were lost and the land draped in mourning, on the other hand there was a vast impetus given to education, a great advancement in science, the development of genius which has given to the nations of the world their iron-clad navies and other destructive engineeery which are contributors to peace and will in the future save the lives of millions of men.

Alabama, with a population of 526,271, equipped and sent to the field 100,000 brave Confederate soldiers and 6,000 who fought on the Union side, while we left at home 436,000 slaves.

My State furnished a greater number of soldiers to the war than she had voters. My friend, Gen. Jno. B. Gordon, one of the bravest of the brave, whom we have with us to-day, went to the front from Alabama.

The effect of the war upon the character of the Federal Government was tersely expressed by the Supreme Court of

the United States in a single sentence: "An indestructible Union composed of indestructible States!"

THE BLUE AND THE GRAY.

Something over two years ago, at the great naval review, when the Dolphin, with the Secretary's flag flying, passed out of Hampton Roads and by the long line of splendid ships of our new navy—fifteen in number—each fired a salute of seventeen guns; and when the longer line of foreign ships was passed old admirals with uncovered heads dipped their colors and each ship fired seventeen guns; and the forts in New York harbor gave forth like salutations to a man who stood upon the forward deck of the Dolphin in plain citizen's attire. With his left hand he could not uncover his head in acknowledgment of these salutations for that arm hung limp by his side in consequence of a wound he received at the Wilderness in 1864 when he was trying to dissolve the Union.

Under the old moribund statutes he was ineligible to even a lieutenancy in the army, or navy; yet, he is the commander of all the powerful ships and skillful officers of the United States Navy.

Who is this man, and how did he obtain that position? Hillary A. Herbert, of Alabama, an old Confederate colonel. He obtained the position from the same hand that made a distinguished Union general Secretary of State.

Gresham and Herbert—Union and Confederate—the Blue and the Gray—All distinction on account of the side a man espoused in our war stricken down, and all alike, again citizens of this great Republic. Thank God and Grover Cleveland!

We recognize that "The Union and the Constitution are one and inseparable now and forever."

While we moisten with our tears the ashes of our fallen comrades we can say:

That "The graves of the dead with the grass overgrown,
Shall still be the footstool of liberty's throne."

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